

Serial No. 10/721,179

Docket No. K-0586

Amendment dated April 5, 2005

Reply to Office Action of January 5, 2005

Amendments to the Drawings:

The attached drawing includes changes to Fig. 3. This sheet, which includes Fig. 3, replaces the original sheet including Fig. 3. Figure 3 has been amended to include reference symbol A. No new matter is added.

Attachments: Replacement Sheet (1)
Annotated Sheet Showing Changes (1)

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REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1-32 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, the drawings and specification are amended. No new matter is added. Support for the claims can be found throughout the specification, including the original claims, and the drawings. Withdrawal of the rejections in view of the above amendments and the following remarks is respectfully requested.

Entry of the amended claims is proper under 37 C.F.R. §1.116 since the amendments: (1) place the application in condition for allowance for the reasons discussed herein; (2) do not raise any new issues requiring further search and/or consideration since the amendments amplify issues previously discussed throughout prosecution without incorporating additional subject matter; (3) satisfy a requirement of form asserted in the previous Office Action; and/or (4) place the application in better form for appeal, if necessary. Entry is thus requested.

I. Allowable Subject Matter

The Examiner is thanked for the indication that claims 1-9 and 19-20 are allowed, and that claims 17-18, 22, 28, and 30 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. However, for the reasons set forth below, claims 17-18, 22, 28, and 30 have not been rewritten in independent form at this time.

II. The Drawings and Specification

The Office Action objects to the drawings under 37 CFR 1.83(a), indicating that the predetermined line of symmetry of the air passage must be shown. It is respectfully submitted that the amendment made to Figure 3, and the corresponding amendment to paragraph 44 of the specification, are responsive to the Examiner's comments, and thus the objection should be withdrawn.

Further, it is respectfully submitted that the specification is amended for clarification purposes only, and that no new matter is added. More specifically, it is respectfully submitted paragraph 44 is amended merely to reference the line of symmetry A corresponding to the label added to Figure 3 at the Examiner's request. The specification clearly stated, prior to this amendment, that "the plurality of first heating coils 61 to 66 and the plurality of second heating coils 71 to 76 are zigzagged so as to cross each other and be symmetrical between the upper and lower sides of the plate 56." If these elements are symmetrical, one of ordinary skill in the art would recognize that they must be symmetrical about a line of symmetry. Further, the specification states that these elements are symmetrical between the upper and lower sides of the plate 56, thus the line of symmetry is clearly a line formed by the plate itself. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that no new matter is added.

III. Rejection(s) Under 35 U.S.C. §102(b)

The Office Action rejects claims 10-16, 21, and 23 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 4,700,495 to Drews et al. (hereinafter “Drews”). The rejection is respectfully traversed.

Independent claim 10 recites, *inter alia*, independent first and second coil arrays provided in the air passage and configured to cross the plate between the upper and lower passages. Drews neither discloses nor suggests such features.

Drews discloses a heater element 82 mounted on a plate member 84 in a heater box 40 of a clothes dryer. The heater element 82 is arranged in an open figure 8 pattern (see Figure 6 of Drews) and is suspended beneath the plate member 84 from a plurality of insulation posts 86. The heater element 82 is supported by the plurality of insulation posts 86 above the plate member 84. Openings 87 in the plate member 84 facilitate air flow around the element 82 to increase efficiency and reliability. The heater element 82 is a single, continuous coil which is connected to the control circuitry of the dryer through an electrical plug connection 98.

Drews clearly discloses that this single, continuous coil is controlled as a single unit on both upper and lower sides of the plate member 84. Drews does not disclose or suggest independent first and second coil arrays as recited in independent claim 10. Further, Drews does not disclose or suggest that at any point the heater element 82 crosses the plate member 84. Thus, Drews neither discloses nor suggests independent first and second coil arrays configured

to cross the plate between the upper and lower passages as recited in independent claim 10.

Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that independent claim 10 is not anticipated by Drews, and thus the rejection of independent claim 10 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) over Drews should be withdrawn. Rejected dependent claims 11-16, 21, and 23, as well as objected to claims 17-18 and 22, are allowable at least for the reasons set forth above with respect to independent claim 10, from which they depend, as well as for their added features.

The Office Action rejects claims 24-27, 29, and 31-32 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 3,857,016 to Meyer et al. (hereinafter "Meyer"). The rejection is respectfully traversed.

Independent claim 24 recites, *inter alia*, a first coil array comprising a plurality of first coils, the plurality of first coils comprising a plurality of upper first coils positioned in the upper portion of the case, and a plurality of lower first coils positioned in the lower portion of the case. Independent claim 24 further recites a second coil array comprising a plurality of second coils, the plurality of second coils comprising a plurality of upper second coils positioned in the upper portion of the case, and a plurality of lower second coils positioned in the lower portion of the case. Meyer neither discloses nor suggests such features.

Meyer discloses a hair dryer including a base A, a tubular casing B, and a cap C. A heating element 40 is positioned in an upper portion of the casing B, and a heating coil 42 is wound around a matrix 41 of insulating material. A thermostat 43 controls a circuit of a heating

coil 44a and a coil 44b of a circuit which controls a voltage level supplied to the motor 30. The heating coil 44a is wound around a lower portion of the heating element 40 and insulating material 41, and the motor coil 44b is wound around an upper portion of the heating element 40 and insulating material 41. Each of the coils 44a and 44b is a single coil, and Meyer does not disclose or suggest that these single coils are an array of coils, let alone that each comprises a coil array comprising a plurality of upper and lower coils, as recited in independent claim 24.

Additionally, it appears the Examiner has drawn a comparison between the matrix 41 of insulating material which surrounds the heating element 40 disclosed by Meyer and the plate recited in independent claim 24, which is configured to partition the case into an upper portion and a lower portion. However, the matrix 41 of insulating material is not a plate, as recited in independent claim 24, nor does Meyer disclose or suggest a plate of any kind. Rather, the matrix 41 of insulating material merely makes it possible for the coils 44a and 44b to be wound around the heating element 40 to allow the hair dryer to function as disclosed.

Further, even if the heating element 40 and matrix 41 insulating material were compared to the plate recited in independent claim 24, these elements partition the case B into left and right portions, rather than upper and lower portions. The case would have to be turned on its side for the heating element 40 and insulating material 41 to partition the small portion of the case B that it occupies into upper and lower portions. However, Meyer's specific disclosure of a base A indicates that the hair dryer's operational position is clearly upright, as shown in Figures

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1-2 of Meyer. Thus, if the case B were to be separated into upper and lower portions, the upper portion would be the end of the case B proximate the cap C, and the lower portion would be the end of the case B proximate the base A when the hair dryer is in its upright, operational position.

For at least these reasons, it is respectfully submitted that independent claim 24 is not anticipated by Meyer, and thus the rejection of independent claim 24 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) over Meyer should be withdrawn. Rejected dependent claims 25-27, 29, and 31-32, as well as objected to claims 28 and 30, are allowable at least for the reasons set forth above with respect to independent claim 24, from which they depend, as well as for their added features.

IV. Conclusion

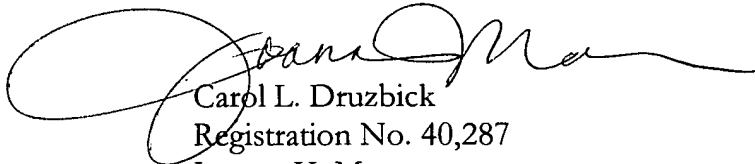
In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. If the Examiner believes that any additional changes would place the application in better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned, **Joanna K. Mason**, at the telephone number listed below. Favorable consideration and prompt allowance are earnestly solicited.

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To the extent necessary, a petition for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. 1.136 is hereby made. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this, concurrent and future replies, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account 16-0607 and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,
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